

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/188,241

Examiner

Terry L Englund

Applicant(s)

LUO, WENZHE

Art Unit

2816

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amdt (Aug 25, 2004) and Interview (Sep 20, 2004).
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 11-14, 18-19, and 21-22 (now renumbered 1-17, respectively for printing purposes).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 04 November 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 09202004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

TIMOTHY P. CALLAHAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the change be unacceptable to the applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the applicant's representative William H. Bollman (Reg. No. 36,457) on Sep 20, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 13, line 2: changed "1" to --5--.

Claim 13's dependency change addresses/corrects an inadvertent oversight. After claim 13 had been previously amended, the examiner had overlooked the fact that the limitations of amended claim 13 duplicated claim 8. Therefore, the above Examiner's Amendment removes the claim duplication, and keeps claim 13, and its related claim 14, active.

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

The amendment submitted on Aug 25, 2004 was reviewed and considered with the following results:

Amended claims 14 and 18 overcame the rejections of claims 14 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 112 as described in the previous Office Action. Therefore, those rejections have been withdrawn.

Amended claim 18 also overcame the prior art rejections of claims 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) with respect to Harston, wherein those prior art rejections have also been withdrawn.

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Harston does not show or disclose a pull-down mirror path, with an amplifier and switch, as now recited within claim 18 (upon which claim 19 depends).

When all of the active claims were carefully reviewed and considered, it was noted that claims 8 and 13 recited identical limitations. This occurred when claim 13 was amended by the May 3rd amendment. However, the duplicate claims were overlooked by the examiner at that time, and therefore were not described in the previous Office Action. The Examiner's Amendment described above removes this claim duplication (i.e. redundancy type) concern.

There is now no known objection or rejection remaining within the present application.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art references reviewed and considered shows or discloses the current source switching, or method of reducing charge injection, as recited within independent claims 1, 18, and 21-22. More specifically, although some references may show/disclose a transistor switch path (e.g. current switch or transistor switch) operating in complementary fashion with a pull-down type mirror path, with respect to a current source, none of the references clearly shows or discloses a pull-down mirror path that is understood as having an amplifier and a switch as recited within claims 1 (upon which claims 2-9, and 11-14 depend), 18 (upon which claim 19 depends), and 21-22. Since there is no motivation to modify or combine any prior art reference(s) to ensure the pull-down mirror path relates to the amplifier and switch as recited, the claims are deemed patentably distinct over the prior art of record.

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Claims 1-9, 11-14, 18-19, and 21-22 are allowed, and have been renumbered as claims 1-17, respectively for printing purposes. The renumbering takes into account the cancellation of claims 10, 15-17, and 20.

Any comments considered necessary by the applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication, or previous communications, from the examiner should be directed to Terry L. Englund whose telephone number is (571) 272-1743. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached on (571) 272-1740.

The new central official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1562.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Terry L. Englund

20 September 2004